Board Agenda Item
February 8, 2006

PRESENTATION - 1

Annual Recreation Trends

Staff will present a report highlighting nationwide recreation trends for 2005. This is the fourth annual report to the Board concerning recreation participation trends and stems from a strategy in the Leisure Opportunities issue area of the Fairfax County Park Authority Strategic Plan for 2002-2006. This strategy (Leisure Opportunities, 5.1) directed staff to "monitor and provide a clearinghouse of information …from which the Park Authority Board can be informed of key trends annually."

Since the current Park Authority strategic planning cycle is ending this will be the last trends presentation in this series. Experience during this report series has shown that significant shifts in national recreation patterns generally happen gradually, making annual reporting unnecessary. Unless otherwise directed, future updates will be presented on a bi-annual basis.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:
Attachment 1: 2005 Recreation Trend Report

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2005 Recreation Trend Report

4rd Annual Report on
Nationwide Participation Trends
in Sports, Recreation and Fitness Activities

Fairfax County Park Authority
Park Services Division
January 2006

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Purpose

This report describes nationwide activity participation trends for more than 60 sports and recreation activities. It is the fourth annual report on activity trends to the Park Authority Board and is an outgrowth of an initiative appearing in the Park Authority's 2002-2006 Strategic Plan. One of the issue areas presented in the strategic plan identified the need to keep pace with important leisure trends as a necessary antecedent to ensuring that the Park Authority is providing the recreational opportunities desired by Fairfax residents. To keep pace with leisure trends it is necessary to first identify them and develop a common understanding of which trends are the most important. This report series has represented a step in that direction.

The initial report in this series, presented in 2002, provided not only a detailed review of the current trends in recreation participation, but also a comprehensive demographic profile of who participates in each of the activities included in the report. Demographic shifts in activity participation generally happen gradually over time, so subsequent reports have been shorter, focusing on important shifts in activity participation patterns. This year's report continues that approach.

Where available, data on national activity trends are presented for three time periods – the most recent two years (2003-2004), an intermediate time period (2001-2004) that roughly describes activity trends as they have occurred over the current strategic planning cycle and a long-term term view over the 10-year period from 1995-2004. While data is presented for these three perspectives, most of the observations in this year's report focus on describing the most relevant trends for the middle time period. Because the Park Authority's current strategic planning cycle is concluding this year, summarizing activity trends that have occurred over that time period serves as a useful bridge between the present plan and the development of a new one.

Organization of the Report, Data Sources

Following the convention established in earlier editions, activity trends are presented in six categories – field and court team sports, racquet sports, skating sports, outdoor recreation, golf and fitness activities. Most of the data presented in the report comes from the annual survey of sports and recreation activity participation conducted by American Sports Data (ASD). The ASD survey monitors participation in more than 100 sports, recreation and fitness activities. Data are based on a representative nationwide sample that produces approximately 15,000 survey responses annually. Estimates of activity participation in the ASD survey are based on the portion of the U.S. population that is age 6 and older.

Reports from the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association International (SGMA) and the International Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association (IHRSA) were also helpful in the development of the team sports and fitness sections of the report. Golf trends were based on an annual survey of golf participation sponsored by the National Golf Foundation (NGF).

Not all activities of potential interest to the Park Authority are included in this trend report. Activities were included based on available data.

Table 1
Field & Court Team Sports Participation Trends in the U.S. - 1995 to 2004

	1995	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	% Change: 03-04	% Change: 01-04	% Change: 95-04	
Basketball	46,474	39,368	37,552	38,663	36,584	35,439	34,223	-3.4%	-11.5%	-26.4%	
Soccer	16,785	17,582	17,734	19,042	17,641	17,679	15,900	-10.1%	-16.5%	-5.3%	
Softball (Slow Pitch)	24,512	17,926	17,585	17,679	14,372	14,410	14,267	-1.0%	-19.3%	-41.8%	
Football (Touch)	19,950	16,729	15,456	16,675	14,903	14,119	12,993	-8.0%	-22.1%	-34.9%	
Volleyball (Court)	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	12,802	11,748	11,008	11,762	6.8%	-8.1%	#N/A	
Baseball	16,183	12,069	10,881	11,405	10,402	10,885	9,694	-10.9%	-15.0%	-40.1%	
Football (Tackle)	#N/A	4,932	5,673	5,400	5,783	5,751	5,440	-5.4%	0.7%	10.3%	*
Softball (Fast Pitch)	3,488	3,214	3,795	4,117	3,658	3,487	4,042	15.9%	-1.8%	15.9%	
Lacrosse	#N/A	822	751	1,099	921	1,132	914	-19.3%	-16.8%	11.2%	*

Shows number of Americans (in thousands) age 6+ who participated in each activity at least once annually.

#N/A indicates years for which data was not available.

*Column labeled "% change: 95-04" represents % change in participation since 1999 rather than 1995 for these activities.

Key Trends – Field and Court Team Sports Participation

- Most of the nine activities tracked in the field and court team sport category experienced declining participant bases in both the short-term (2003-04) and medium-term (2001-04) trend periods. Over the short term, seven of the nine team sports activities lost significant numbers of participants as shown in table 1 on the previous page. Fast pitch softball and volleyball were the only two activities in this category to experience growth in participant numbers from 2003 to 2004. The four-year trend shows a similar pattern. During this time frame, participant numbers shrank in all of the team sports activities analyzed except tackle football where the size of the participant base remained essentially stable.

- Declining participation in team sports activities is now resulting from both casual and frequent participants. Declines in team sports participation have been documented throughout this series of reports, although the source of decline has shifted over time. In the initial report, issued in 2002, much of the decline in participation across team sports was attributed to fringe participants – those that played only occasionally and who, as a result, hadn't developed an affinity for team sports activities. Subsequent reports documented that continued erosion of team sports participant bases had begun to reach frequent participants as well, although the bulk of the decline was concentrated among occasional players.

  This year's analysis indicates that significant loss of participants in team sports is now resulting from both occasional and frequent participants of these activities. An SGMA analysis of the frequent participants of all nine team sports combined showed that the collective number of individuals who were frequent team sports participants began to erode in 2003 and has declined 12% from 2001 - 2004 (see figure 1). Activity-by-activity analysis of team sports activities in decline since 2001 confirms that both occasional and frequent players have contributed to the drop in numbers (see table 2). The relative significance of these two groups in the erosion of the participant base varies by activity, however. In general, a declining trend is more established for those activities in which the rate of decline in the core participant base (i.e., frequent players) is equal to or greater than that of fringe users (i.e., occasional players).

Figure 1
Frequent Sports Participation – All Activities Combined
Participants Age 6+ (in millions)

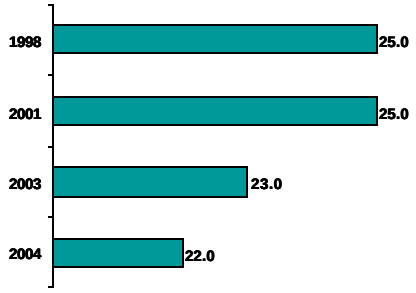


Table 2
% Decline in Numbers of Occasional and Frequent Team Sports Participants - 2001 to 2004

	Overall	Frequent Players	Occasional Players
Baseball	-15%	-12%	-16%
Basketball	-12%	-22%	-9%
Touch Football	-22%	-24%	-21%
Soccer	-17%	-20%	-16%
Softball (Fast Pitch)	-2%	15%	-10%
Softball (Slow Pitch)	-19%	-31%	-13%
Volleyball (Court)	-8%	-16%	-4%

Frequent participants for these activities include those who participated 52 or more times annually. Occasional participants played less frequently.
Data not available for lacrosse.

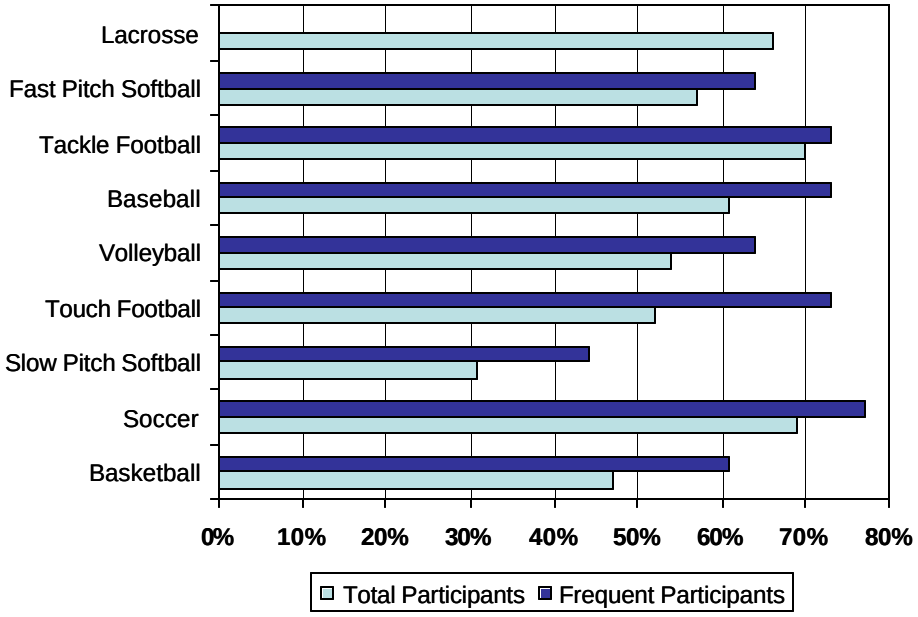
- Despite declines in the number of frequent sports participants, indications are that organized team sports play is generally still growing, though there are some indications of a slow-down in some sports, namely soccer and baseball. Table 3 shows participant data from some of the larger national youth sports programs as reported by SGMA.

Table 3 - Trends in Organized Team Sports Play (in millions)

Participation in AAU Youth Basketball	2000	2004	% Growth
	0.21	0.26	24%
USA Volleyball Participation	2000	2004	% Growth
	0.14	0.18	29%
Youth Softball Participation	2001	2004	% Growth
	0.58	0.65	12%
Inlcudes Little League, Dixie, PONY and Babe Ruth Softball.			
	2000	2004	% Growth
U.S. Youth Soccer Assn. Participation	3.1	3.08	-1%
	2000-01	2004-05	% Growth
High School Varsity Soccer	0.63	0.67	6%
	2001	2004	% Growth
Pop Warner Football Participation	0.19	0.21	11%
Community Youth Baseball	2000	2004	% Growth
	4.4	4.2	-5%
Includes Little League, Babe Ruth, PONY, Dixie, American Legion and American Amateur Baseball Congress			

- Anticipated youth population trends make the outlook for future growth in team sports participation at the national level look limited. Children make-up the majority of participants in all of the activities of the team sports category except slow pitch softball (see figure 2). That means team sports activity participant patterns are inextricably linked to youth population trends.

Figure 2. % of Team Sports Participants Age 6-17



A recent report by the SGMA observes the following at the national level:

> "For more than a decade, there has been strong growth in the number of children in the key team sports-playing age groups... Despite this expansion, the number of team sports participants has shrunk. Over the next decade, the 5 to 19 age group will grow only slightly, suggesting that team sports participation rates will continue to decline."

Fairfax County demographic projections show a similar, though perhaps not quite as bleak, a picture for youth population growth at the local level (see Figure 3). Elementary and middle school age groups are still expected to grow some in the last half of this decade and into the next, but at dramatically slower rates than were experienced in the 1990s.

Figure 3. Fairfax County Historic and Projected Population Growth Rates for Children Compared with the Total Population

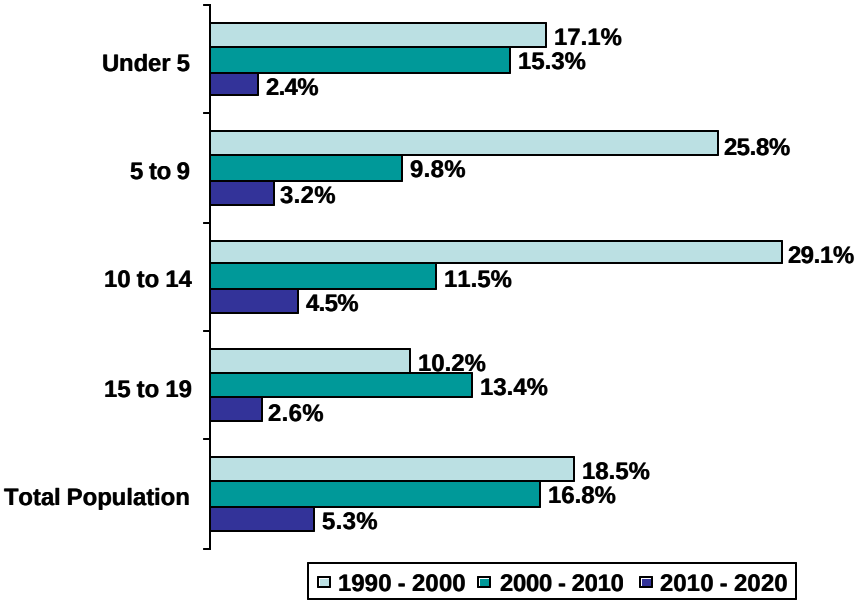


Table 4
Racquet Sports Participation Trends in the U.S. - 1993 to 2003

	1995	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	% Change: 03-04	01-04	95-04
Tennis	18,479	16,817	16,598	15,098	16,353	17,325	18,346	5.9%	21.5%	-0.7%
Badminton	11,687	8,884	8,490	7,684	6,765	5,937	6,432	8.3%	-16.3%	-45.0%
Racquetball	6,297	5,633	5,155	5,296	4,840	4,875	5,533	13.5%	4.5%	-12.1%

Shows number of Americans (in thousands) age 6+ who participated at least once annually.

Key Trends – Racquet Sports Participation

- All three racquet sports activities tracked in this report have enjoyed a recent resurgence in popularity. Tennis is now in the midst of a multi-year recovery in popularity, and from 2003-2004 both racquetball and badminton saw significant increases in participation for the first time in a decade or more (see table 4).

- Although badminton participation is down 16% overall since 2001, and the activity has lost nearly half of its participant base since 1995, participation did grow nearly 5% over the most recent two years. This represents the activity's first participant growth since the American Sports Data tracking study began in 1987. Growth came chiefly from occasional recreational players – primarily females and teens (see table 4).

- Racquetball's long-term slide in participation finally leveled-off during the current strategic planning period. After years of continual decline, participant numbers stabilized in the last

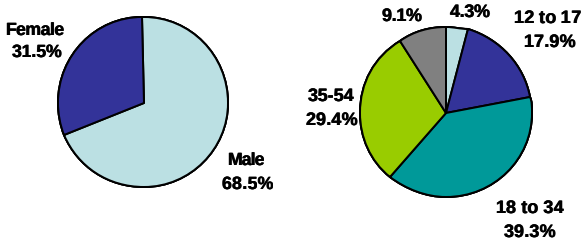
few years and then increased 13.5% from 2003 to 2004. To provide some perspective on the latest up tick in racquetball popula rity, note that participant growth in this activity only occurred in one other year since the American Sports Data tracking studying began in 1987. That year was 2001 when the number of participants increased 2.7%. Current year growth (2003-04) was five times what occurred in 2001 (see table 4).

- Recent racquetball growth resulted primarily from two sources – youth discovering the sport for the first time and seniors who may be rediscovering it (see figure 4). Nearly half a million additional teens tried the sport in 2004 for a one year growth rate of 83%. The rate of growth was comparable among those ages 55 and older and was even higher among 6-11 year olds. A nearly 9% rate of growth among 18-34 year olds was also encouraging, since young adults represent the largest segment of users and participation in this age group had been in free fall for years. Young adults (18-34 year olds) currently represent 39% of all racquetball players compared to nearly 6 of every 10 participants in 1990.

- Nearly all of the 03-04 new racquetball participants were trial users, that is, they played racquetball a limited number of times during the year. Average frequency of play among racquetball players continued to decline, and nearly all appreciable growth was attributable to occasional, rather than frequent, participants (see figure 4).

Figure 4

Racquetball Participation, 2004



% Gain/Loss in Participants, 2003-2004

Male	23%
Female	-3%
6-11	188%
12-17	83%
18-34	9%
35-54	-17%
55+	80%
Frequent	1%
Infrequent	18%

- After years of decline, the number of tennis players climbed for the third consecutive year in 2004. Since 2001, the number of tennis players nationwide has increased 21.5% and is largely attributable to aggressive player development efforts initiated at about the same time by the United States Tennis Association.

- Tennis participant growth was broadly distributed demographically. Both sexes and all age groups except elementary school-aged children contributed significantly to participant growth in the 2001-2004 time period (see figure 5). And growth not only resulted from more occasional players trying the sport, but also resulted from the influx of additional committed, frequent participants as well.

Figure 5

Tennis - % Growth/Loss in Participants 2001-2004

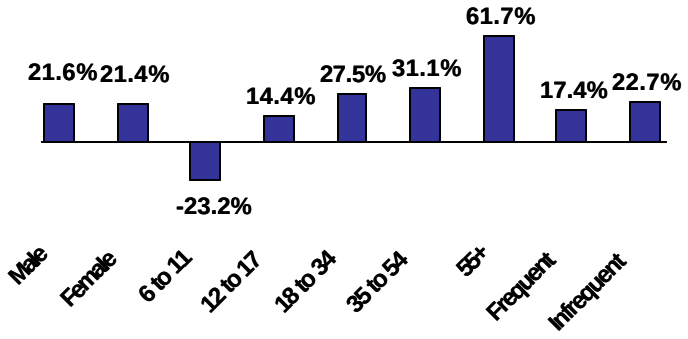


Table 5
Skating Sports Participation Trends in the U.S. - 1993 to 2003

	1995	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	% Change: 03-04	01-04	95-04
In Line Skating	22,508	27,865	29,024	26,022	21,572	19,233	17,348	-9.8%	-33.3%	-22.9%
Ice Skating	#N/A	17,499	17,496	16,753	14,530	17,049	14,692	-13.8%	-12.3%	-16.0% *
Skateboarding	6,172	7,807	11,649	12,459	12,997	11,090	10,592	-4.5%	-15.0%	71.6%
Ice Hockey	2,622	2,385	2,761	2,344	2,612	2,789	1,998	-28.4%	-14.8%	-23.8%
In Line Hockey	4,232	2,853	3,287	2,733	2,875	2,718	1,788	-34.2%	-34.6%	-57.8%

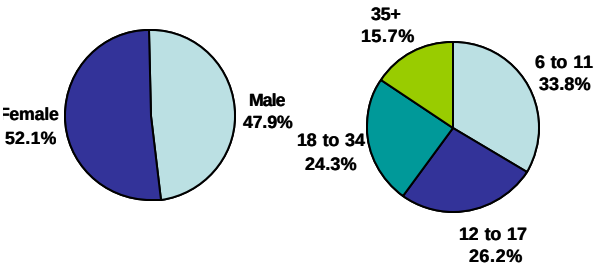
Shows number of Americans (in thousands) age 6+ who participated at least once annually.
*Column labeled "% change: 95-04" indicates % change in participation since 1999 rather than 1995 for this activity.

Key Trends – Skating Sports Participation

- <u>The most popular of the skating sports reviewed in this report – in line skating – experienced its fourth consecutive year of participant decline in 2004</u>. There are now nearly 12 million less in line skaters than at the height of the sports' popularity in 2000. In just the last year, the number of participants dropped nearly 10% (see table 5). Loss of interest in this activity has occurred across-the-board – in all demographic groups and among both frequent and infrequent activity participants. In addition, those that remain are participating less frequently than in the past. The average in-liner participated in the activity about 20 days annually in 2004, down from an average of 33 days per year in 2001 (see figure 6).

Figure 6

In Line Skating Participation, 2004 % Gain/Loss in Participants, 2001-2004

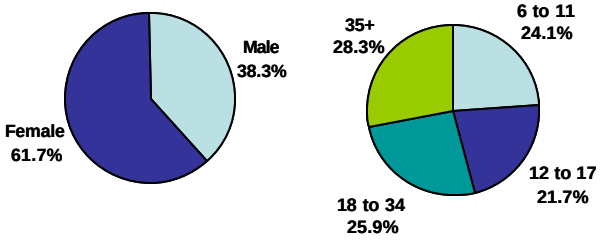


Male	-33%
Female	-32%
6-11	-42%
12-17	-41%
18-34	-15%
35+	-14%
Frequent	-55%
Infrequent	-23%

- Ice skating participation fluctuated up and down over the course of the strategic plan cycle. Since 2001, the number of participants in this sport decreased by slightly more than 12% (see table 5). Attrition was greatest in the youth age groups; elementary school aged skaters were particularly affected. And participant erosion was much more severe among occasional participants than it was among the most frequent participants in the activity (see figure 7).

Figure 7

Ice Skating Participation, 2004 % Gain/Loss in Participants, 2001-2004

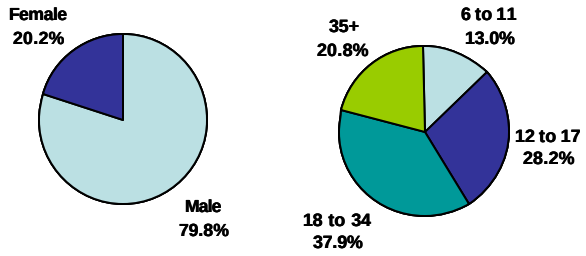


Male	-19%
Female	-8%
6-11	-30%
12-17	-20%
18-34	3%
35+	1%
Frequent	-4%
Infrequent	-13%

- In line and ice hockey have also exhibited fluctuating participation patterns over the last several years. Both activities have lost considerable numbers of adherents since 2001, however (see table 5). The drop in participant numbers was most severe for in line hockey, which lost a little more than one-third of its participant base. Numbers of ice hockey players dropped about 15%. A decrease in youth participation was a key factor in the declining numbers associated with both activities. Despite overall declining numbers of players, ice hockey was able to grow the core of its participant base – frequent players – while in line experienced significant declines in both frequent and infrequent participants (see figures 8 and 9).

Figure 8

Ice Hockey Participation, 2004

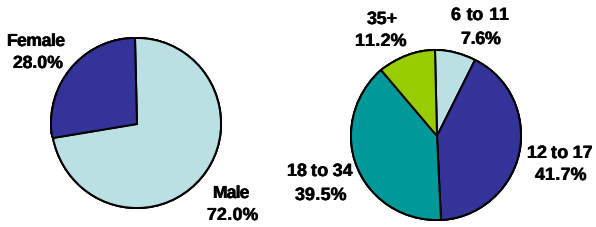


% Gain/Loss in Participants, 2001-2004

Male	-13%
Female	-21%
6-11	-48%
12-17	-11%
18-34	-20%
35+	-6%
Frequent	25%
Infrequent	-35%

Figure 9

In Line Hockey Participation, 2004



% Gain/Loss in Participants, 2001-2004

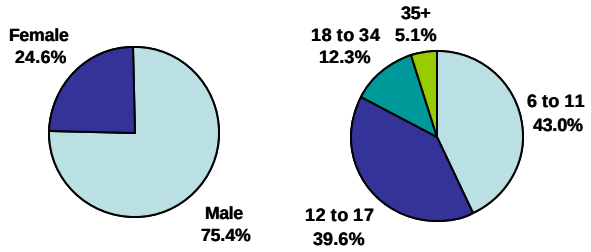
Male	-40%
Female	-14%
6-11	-84%
12-17	-39%
18-34	37%
35+	14%
Frequent	-30%
Infrequent	-37%

- After a number of years of spectacular growth, skateboarding participant numbers declined in 2004 for the second year in a row. As the current strategic planning cycle began, skateboarding was enjoying spectacular growth in participation. Numbers of skateboarders roughly doubled between 1995 and 2001. Participant growth then moderated and peaked in 2002 before declining over the past two years. Currently, overall numbers of skateboarding participants are still high compared to many other activities, but are the lowest they have been this decade. During the course of the strategic planning period, the number of skateboarders declined by 15% (see table 5).

- The two-year drop in skateboarding participation has come directly from the activity's core participant base. Youth in the 6-11 and 12-17 age groups together account for more than eight of every 10 skateboarders. Declining numbers in these two core audience segments were largely responsible for most of the drop in skateboarding participant numbers in 2003 and 2004. The typical skater is also beginning to participate less – an average of 48 days per year in 2004 compared to 58 days annually in 2001 (see figure 10).

Figure 10

Skateboarding Participation, 2004



% Gain/Loss in Participants, 2001-2004

Male	-13%
Female	-20%
6-11	-20%
12-17	-16%
18-34	-16%
35+	102%
Frequent	-22%
Infrequent	-12%

Table 6
Golf Participation Trends in the U.S. - 1994 to 2004

	1994	1997	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	% Change: 94-04	% Change: 01-04	% Change: 03-04
Golfers (18+):	22,634	24,118	25,400	25,800	26,200	27,400	27,302	20.6%	5.8%	-0.4%
Occasional (1-7 rounds/year)	11,463	10,619	11,684	14,190	13,624	14,248	14,552	26.9%	2.6%	2.1%
Core (8+ rounds/year)	11,171	13,499	13,716	11,610	12,576	13,152	12,750	14.1%	9.8%	-3.1%
Juniors (12-17)	1,750	2,350	2,103	2,450	2,750	2,550	2,912	66.4%	18.9%	14.2%

Source: National Golf Foundation. Estimates show number of golfers in thousands.

Key Trends – Golf Participation

- Over the course of the strategic plan cycle, the total number of adult golfers nationwide grew nearly 6%. Core golfers, those totaling eight or more rounds of play per year, accounted for the bulk of that growth. As table 6 shows, their numbers grew at a rate more than three times that of occasional players (9.8% vs. 2.6%) from 2001-2004.

- The number of junior golfers (age 12-17) fluctuated over the same time period but, overall, their numbers grew about 19%. A third of junior golfers played enough rounds in 2004 to classify them as core golfers compared to 47% of adults.

- Demographic segments driving most of golf's growth over that last four years included older golfers (50+), young adults (18-34) and women. These segments of the golf market experienced four-year growth rates that were roughly two to four times the average growth rate of 5.8% (see table 7).

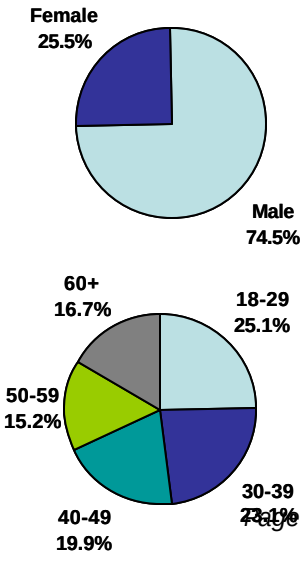
- The rate of growth in what were traditionally golf's primary demographic segments was slower than average or actually declined between 2001 and 2004. The growth rate among male golfers was substantially lower than that of females. Women now represent 25% of adult golfers compared to 20% in 2001. Golfers in their 30's and 40's declined significantly in number. In 2001, 30-49 year old golfers represented more than half of the participant base (52%). Due to attrition and growth in other segments, they now account for only 43% of all golfers (see figure 11).

Table 7
Rate of Growth/Loss in Golf Participants, 2001 - 2004

	04-01	04-03
Total	5.8%	-0.4%
Male	3.5%	-2.0%
Female	13.2%	4.8%
18-29	18.4%	32.1%
30-39	-5.6%	-7.9%
40-49	-9.1%	-21.8%
50-59	14.7%	3.5%
60+	22.1%	3.5%

Source: National Golf Foundation

Figure 11
Golf Demographic Profile, 2004



- During the strategic planning cycle, all of the growth in the adult golf participant base occurred from 2001 - 2003. The total number of golfers then remained essentially steady between 2003 and 2004. While virtually no growth occurred from 2003-2004, there were fluctuations within specific groups that comprise the golf market (see table 7). Occasional players actually increased in number, but the number of core golfers declined. As of now, the decline in core golfers represents only a one-year phenomenon. However, its impact is still significant, at least in the short term, since core players reportedly account for 91% of rounds played and 87% of golf spending according to National Golf Foundation estimates.

- Golfers continue to play less frequently than was true in the late 1990s and through 2000. Today more than half of all golfers play only seven rounds a year or less. This pattern, first evident in 2001, has stayed relatively consistent since then. Some comfort taken be taken in the fact that the pattern is not worsening (i.e., the proportion of infrequent golfers is not increasing), but it is not improving appreciably either. A majority of golfers have not been classified as core players (eight rounds a year or more) since 2000 (see table 8).

Table 8. Frequency of Play Trends Among Adult Golfers

	1994	1997	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
% Occasional (1-7 rounds/year)	51%	44%	46%	55%	52%	52%	53%
% Core (8+ rounds/year)	49%	56%	54%	45%	48%	48%	47%

Source: National Golf Foundation

Table 9
Outdoor Recreation Activity Participation Trends in the U.S. - 1995 to 2004

	1995	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	% Change: 03-04	% Change: 01-04	% Change: 95-04	
Recreational Swimming	#N/A	95,094	93,976	93,571	92,667	96,429	95,268	-1.2%	1.8%	0.2%	*
Recreational Bicycling	#N/A	56,227	53,006	52,948	53,524	53,710	52,021	-3.1%	-1.8%	-7.5%	*
Tent Camping	38,585	40,803	42,241	43,472	40,316	41,891	41,561	-0.8%	-4.4%	7.7%	
Freshwater Fishing	48,747	44,452	44,050	43,547	42,605	43,819	39,433	-10.0%	-9.4%	-19.1%	
Day Hiking	#N/A	39,235	39,015	36,915	36,778	39,096	39,334	0.6%	6.6%	0.3%	*
RV Camping	19,425	17,577	19,035	19,117	18,747	19,022	17,424	-8.4%	-8.9%	-10.3%	
Horseback Riding	#N/A	16,906	16,988	16,648	14,641	16,009	14,695	-8.2%	-11.7%	-13.1%	*
Canoeing	#N/A	12,785	13,134	12,044	10,933	11,632	11,449	-1.6%	-4.9%	-10.4%	*
Artificial Wall Climbing	#N/A	4,817	6,117	7,377	7,185	8,634	7,659	-11.3%	3.8%	59.0%	*
Kayaking	#N/A	4,012	4,137	4,727	5,562	6,324	6,147	-2.8%	30.0%	53.2%	*
Mountain Biking	8,654	7,849	7,854	6,189	6,719	6,940	5,334	-23.1%	-13.8%	-38.4%	
BMX Bicycling	#N/A	3,730	3,977	3,668	3,885	3,365	2,642	-21.5%	-28.0%	-29.2%	*

Shows number of Americans (in thousands) age 6+ who participated at least once annually.

*Column labeled "% change: 95-03" indicates % change in participation since 1999 rather than 1995 for this activity.

Key Trends – Outdoor Recreation Activity Participation

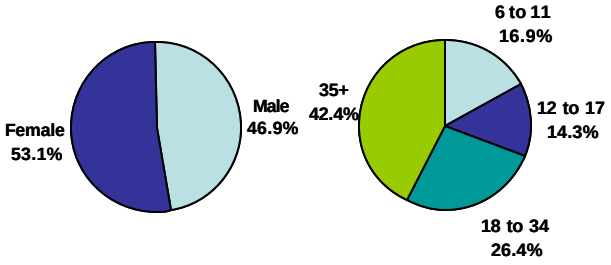
- The majority outdoor recreation activities tracked in this section of the report experienced participant declines in both the most recent trend period (2003-04) and over the four-year period since 2001. Viewed collectively, less Americans were participating in these activities in 2004 than the previous year. Numbers of participants decreased in 10 of 12 outdoor recreation activities tracked, and they were static in the remaining two activities. Tent camping and day hiking were the only activities that did not experience a loss in participants from 2003-2004. The outlook was only slightly were positive across the four-year period from 2001-2004. Over that time, the number of participants increased in four of the 12 activities (recreational swimming, day hiking, artificial wall climbing and kayaking), but fell in the other eight (see table 9).

- Those who are participated in these outdoor recreation activities in 2004 were generally doing so less frequently than in 2001. Average frequency of participation was lower in 2004 than in 2001 for all activities except BMX bicycling (+4%) and tent camping (unchanged). And it increased for only two activities between 2003 and 2004 – recreational bicycling (+3%) and BMX bicycling (+2%). Note that activities in this category are typically done in special settings (vacations, weekend outings and the like) and, therefore, participation frequencies are generally lower than those in other activity categories like fitness or team sports. Only three of the outdoor activities – BMX and recreational bicycling and recreational swimming – are engaged in an average of twice per month or more.

- Recreational swimming. Approximately 95.2 million Americans reported participating in entertainment-oriented swimming in 2004, making this the most popular activity by far of the 100+ recreation, fitness and sports activities included in the annual American Sports Data survey. While the number of activity participants in 2004 dropped by more than one million from the previous year, there were still 1.6 million more recreational swimmers in '04 than there were in 2001 (see table 9). The four-year growth in recreational swimming was not distributed evenly across the participant base, however. Youth and young adult participation declined, while participation among middle-aged and older adults was on the upswing. And keeping consistent with the general participation pattern of activities in this category, all of the growth in recreational swimming was found among occasional rather than frequent participants (see figure 11).

Figure 11

Recreational Swimming Participation, 2004 % Gain/Loss in Participants, 2001-2004



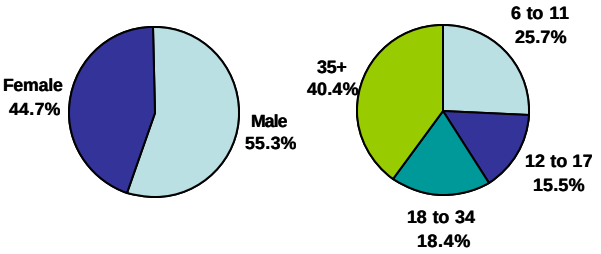
Male	1%
Female	3%
6-11	-13%
12-17	-9%
18-34	-5%
35+	20%
Frequent	-13%
Infrequent	5%

- Recreational bicycling, had approximately 52 million participants nationwide in 2004 – about 900,000 less than in 2001 (see table 9). Like recreational swimming, youth and young adult

participation in this activity waned while numbers of middle-aged and older bikers increased. Similarly, the number of Americans who did this activity frequently dropped precipitously (see figure 12).

Figure 12

Recreational Bicycling Participation, 2004 % Gain/Loss in Participants, 2001-2004

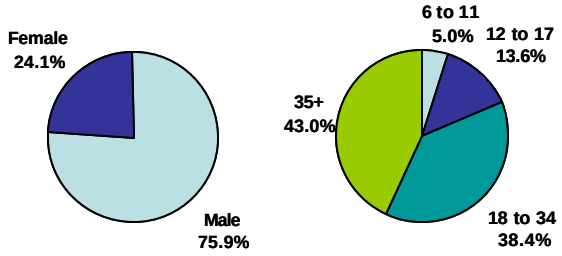


Male	5%
Female	-9%
6-11	-19%
12-17	-13%
18-34	-5%
35+	23%
Frequent	-13%
Infrequent	3%

- Two biking activities – mountain biking and BMX – also experienced declining numbers in both the most recent two-year period and the four-year period beginning 2001 (see table 9). A drop-off in youth and young adult participation was again the primary factor contributing to the decline in both activities (see figure 13).

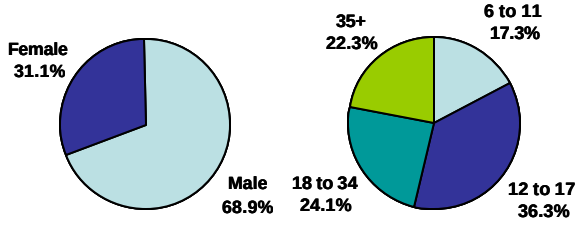
Figure 13

Mt. Biking Participation, 2004 % Gain/Loss in Participants, 2001-2004



Male	-6%
Female	-31%
6-11	-59%
12-17	-36%
18-34	-20%
35+	25%
Frequent	-31%
Infrequent	-7%

BMX Bicycling Participation, 2004 % Gain/Loss in Participants, 2001-2004



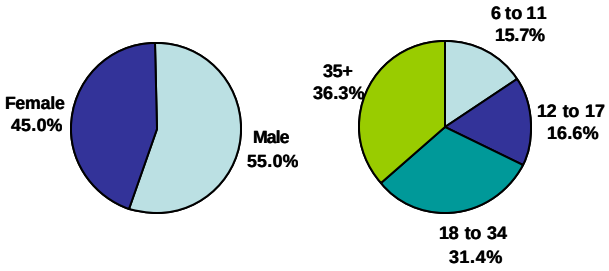
Male	-33%
Female	-15%
6-11	-32%
12-17	-37%
18-34	-26%
35+	-6%
Frequent	-37%
Infrequent	-24%

- Camping activities. Both tent and RV campers declined in number from 2001 - 2004 (see table 9). Tent camping losses stemmed from the familiar pattern of declining participation among youth and young adults. In contrast, all age groups contributed to the drop in the number of RV campers. Most discouraging was the decline in the number of senior-aged

RV campers. Entrance of the Baby Boom generation into the senior age ranks has often been cited as a potential boon to the RV industry. Between 2001 and 2003 this potential was well on the way to being fulfilled as the number of 55+ RV campers grew by 20%. About 660,000 new senior RV campers were added to the participant base over that period. Those gains were at least temporarily erased in 2004, however, when more than one million less seniors participated in RV camping than in 2003. As a result, there were 12% fewer senior-aged RV campers in 2004 as there were in 2001 (see figure 14).

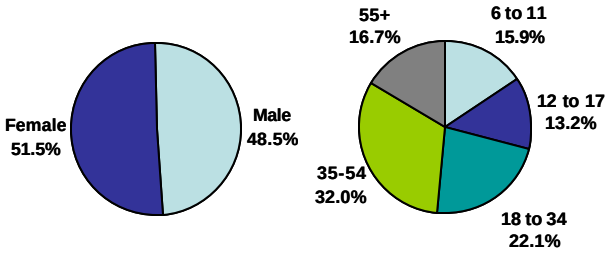
Figure 14

Tent Camping Participation, 2004



% Gain/Loss in Participants, 2001-2004	
Male	-3%
Female	-6%
6-11	-19%
12-17	-6%
18-34	-11%
35+	11%
Frequent	-5%
Infrequent	-4%

RV Camping Participation, 2004

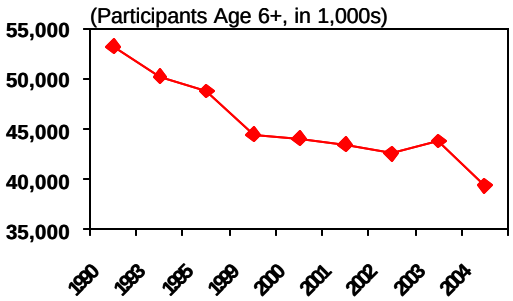


% Gain/Loss in Participants, 2001-2004	
Male	-4%
Female	-13%
6-11	-17%
12-17	-4%
18-34	-10%
35-54	-3%
55+	-12%
Frequent	-9%
Infrequent	-9%

- Freshwater fishing. While this activity still enjoys widespread popularity, having more than 39 million participants nationwide in 2004, its decline as an American recreational activity continues. In 1990, more than 53 million Americans or 24% of the population age 6 and older engaged in freshwater fishing annually. By 2001, only 17.3% of Americans were freshwater fishing and as of 2004 the rate of participation had dropped to 15%. The drop in the popularity of fishing has affected every age group except seniors. The number of 55+ freshwater fisherman actually increased 9% between 2001 and 2004 (see figure 15).

Figure 15

Freshwater Fishing Participation

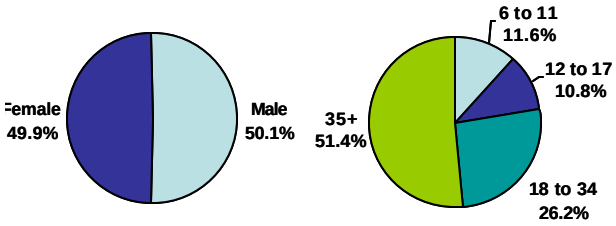


% Gain/Loss in Participants, 2001-2004	
Male	-12%
Female	-7%
6-11	-15%
12-17	-18%
18-34	-15%
35-54	-3%
55+	9%
Frequent	-12%
Infrequent	-8%

- Day hiking. This activity, roughly comparable to walking trails, is the fifth largest of the activities tracked in the outdoor recreation category. With 39.3 million participants in 2004, day hiking boasts a nationwide participant base comparable in size to freshwater fishing (see table 9). The number of participants has increased by about 2.4 million or 6.6% since 2001. If examined by age group, growth since 2001 has resulted from increased numbers of adults – particularly middle-aged and older. Youth participation in this activity declined over the same time period (see figure 16).

Figure 16

Day Hiking Participation, 2004



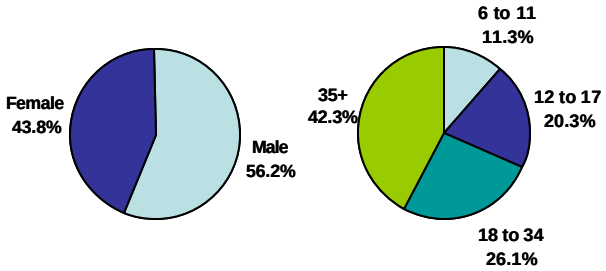
% Gain/Loss in Participants, 2001-2004

Male	11%
Female	2%
6-11	-18%
12-17	-11%
18-34	2%
35+	23%
Frequent	-3%
Infrequent	9%

- Canoeing and kayaking. Canoeing sports nearly double the number of participants of kayaking nationwide (11.6 million in 2004 vs. 6.3 million), however, its numbers have decreased by about 5% since 2001 (see table 9). Despite a leveling off of participant numbers in 2004, kayaking participation increased 30% between 2001 and 2004 – from 4.7 to 6.1 million. The chief source of the decline in canoeing – weakening interest in the youth demographic. Kayaking, in comparison, enjoyed surging popularity across all age groups (see figure 17).

Figure 17

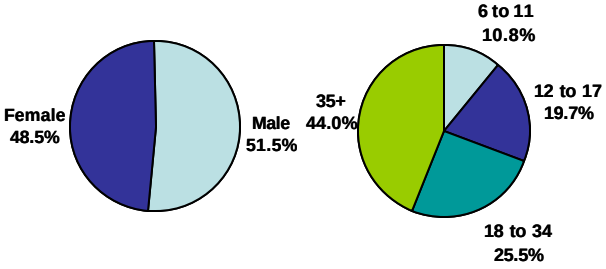
Canoeing Participation, 2004



% Gain/Loss in Participants, 2001-2004

Male	5%
Female	-15%
6-11	-31%
12-17	-12%
18-34	-8%
35+	16%
Frequent	-34%
Infrequent	-3%

Kayaking Participation, 2004



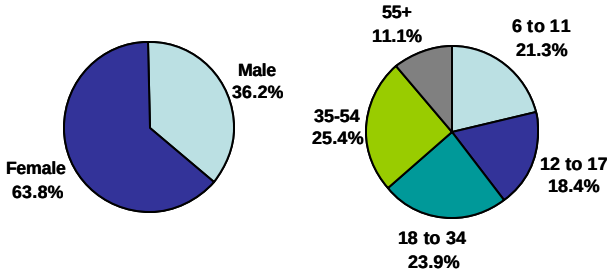
% Gain/Loss in Participants, 2001-2004

Male	40%
Female	21%
6-11	70%
12-17	15%
18-34	19%
35+	35%

- Horseback riding. Despite an increase in popularity from 2002-2003, participant numbers in this activity declined 11.7% from 2001 to 2004 (see table 9). Still, some 14.7 million Americans rode horses in 2004, making it comparable in size to ice skating or slow pitch softball. The decline in horseback riding's participant base over the last four years was seen in all age groups except age 55+ and also occurred among both frequent and occasional riders (see figure 18).

Figure 18

Horseback Riding Participation, 2004 % Gain/Loss in Participants, 2001-2004

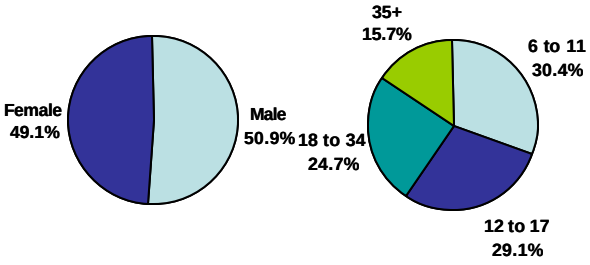


Male	-13%
Female	-11%
6-11	-14%
12-17	-20%
18-34	-22%
35-54	-12%
55+	83%
Frequent	-22%
Infrequent	-9%

- Artificial wall climbing. This activity had been the fastest growing of the outdoor category, but in 2004 experienced its first significant decline in participants since American Sports Data began including it in their survey in 1999. In 2004, wall climbing lost one million participants from its high of 8.6 million reached in 2003 (see table 9). The 2003-2004 decline was felt across most demographic segments. Despite the near term bad news, over the four-year period since 2001, wall climbing has attracted about 4% growth. Wall climbing also has shown widespread demographic appeal among the sexes and across age groups, although the loss of nearly one-quarter of its most frequent participants since 2001 is a negative indicator for this activity (see figure 19).

Figure 19

Artificial Wall Climbing Participation, 2004 % Gain/Loss in Participants, 2001-2004



Male	-11%
Female	25%
6-11	1%
12-17	-7%
18-34	5%
35+	28%
Frequent	-24%
Infrequent	5%

Table 10
Fitness Participation Trends in the U.S. - 1998 to 2004

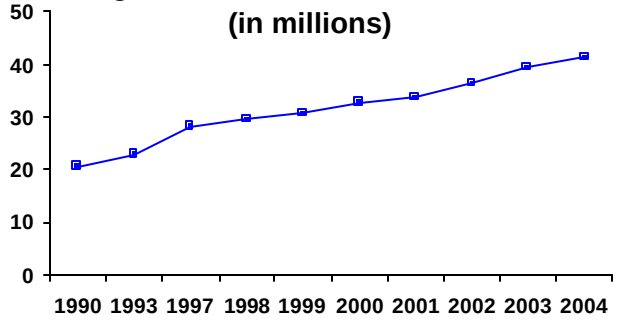
	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	% Change: 03-04	% Change: 01-04	% Change: 98-04
Free Weights (Net)	41,266	44,499	45,407	48,261	51,567	52,056	0.9%	14.6%	26.1%
Dumbbells	23,414	25,241	26,773	28,933	30,549	31,415	2.8%	17.3%	34.2%
Hand Weights	23,325	27,086	27,078	28,453	29,720	30,143	1.4%	11.3%	29.2%
Barbells	21,263	21,972	23,030	24,812	25,645	24,103	-6.0%	4.7%	13.4%
Treadmill Exercise	37,073	40,816	41,638	43,431	45,572	47,463	4.1%	14.0%	28.0%
Stretching	35,114	36,408	38,120	38,367	42,096	40,799	-3.1%	7.0%	16.2%
Fitness Walking	36,395	36,207	36,445	37,981	37,945	40,299	6.2%	10.6%	10.7%
Running/Jogging	34,962	33,680	34,857	35,866	36,152	37,310	3.2%	7.0%	6.7%
Stationary Cycling (Net)	30,791	28,795	28,720	29,083	30,952	31,431	1.5%	9.4%	2.1%
Upright Bikes	20,744	17,894	17,483	17,403	17,488	17,889	2.3%	2.3%	-13.8%
Recumbent Bikes	6,773	8,947	8,654	10,217	10,683	11,227	5.1%	29.7%	65.8%
Group Cycling (Spinning)	6,776	5,431	6,418	6,135	6,462	6,777	4.9%	5.6%	0.0%
Resistance Machines	22,519	25,182	25,942	27,848	29,996	30,903	3.0%	19.1%	37.2%
Calisthenics	30,982	27,790	29,392	26,862	28,007	25,562	-8.7%	-13.0%	-17.5%
Other Exercise to Music	13,846	12,337	13,076	13,540	14,159	16,365	15.6%	25.2%	18.2%
Aerobics (Net)	21,017	17,326	16,948	16,046	16,451	15,767	-4.2%	-7.0%	-25.0%
Low-Impact	12,774	9,752	10,026	9,286	8,813	8,493	-3.6%	-15.3%	-33.5%
Step	10,784	8,963	8,542	8,336	8,457	8,257	-2.4%	-3.3%	-23.4%
High-Impact	7,460	5,581	6,401	5,423	5,875	5,521	-6.0%	-13.7%	-26.0%
Elliptical Motion Trainer	3,863	6,176	8,255	10,695	13,415	15,678	16.9%	89.9%	305.9%
Fitness Swimming	15,258	14,060	15,300	14,542	15,899	15,636	-1.7%	2.2%	2.5%
Stair-Climbing	18,609	15,828	15,117	14,251	14,321	13,300	-7.1%	-12.0%	-28.5%
Yoga/Tai Chi	5,708	7,400	9,741	11,106	13,371	12,414	-7.2%	27.4%	117.5%
Pilates Training	#N/A	1,739	2,437	4,671	9,469	10,541	11.3%	332.5%	#N/A
Fitness Bicycling	13,556	11,435	10,761	11,153	12,048	10,210	-15.3%	-5.1%	-24.7%
Home Gym Exercise	7,577	8,103	8,497	8,924	9,260	9,347	0.9%	10.0%	23.4%
Rowing Machine	7,485	6,229	7,089	7,092	6,484	7,303	12.6%	3.0%	-2.4%
Martial Arts	5,368	5,722	5,999	5,996	6,883	6,898	0.2%	15.0%	28.5%
Aquatic Exercise	6,685	6,367	7,103	6,995	7,141	5,812	-18.6%	-18.2%	-13.1%
Cardio Kickboxing	#N/A	7,163	6,665	5,940	5,489	4,773	-13.0%	-28.4%	#N/A
Cross-Country Ski Machine	6,870	5,444	4,924	5,074	4,744	4,155	-12.4%	-15.6%	-39.5%
Aggregate Participation-Strength Training & Cardio Equipment Use:									
Cardio Machine Use (Net)	#N/A	#N/A	63,481	65,770	72,125	72,914	1.1%	14.9%	#N/A
Strength Training (Net)	#N/A	#N/A	61,340	64,974	69,510	70,684	1.7%	15.2%	#N/A

Shows number of Americans (in thousands) age 6+ who participated at least once annually.

Key Trends – Fitness Activity Participation

- The popularity of fitness continues to grow. Health club membership trends are often viewed as a useful barometer of the health and popularity of the fitness industry on a macro level. Nationally, health clubs added 1.9 million members between 2003 and 2004, and 7.5 million members since 2001 (see figure 20). The rate of member growth has averaged 7.4% annually since 2001 – 22.2% overall. Factors contributing to this steady growth include the following:

Figure 20. Health Club Members (in millions)



  - New facilities. The industry keeps adding new health clubs at a steady pace – an additional 39% between 2001 and 2004. Industry analysts have noted that many of these were smaller, niche clubs that tout some combination of the following competitive benefits: lower costs, express workouts, and services targeted toward a specific market such as the deconditioned, a specific demographic segment (most commonly women) or activity-specific training.

  - Above average growth in the number of members who are seniors. The entry of large numbers of members age 55 and older into health clubs has changed the face of the market over time. The rate of growth among senior club members was more than 3.5 times the average industry growth rate of 22% (see figure 21). As recently as 2001, 34% of health club members nationwide were young adults (age 18-34) and about 17% were 55 and older. The proportion of young adults has now dropped to 29%, while seniors currently comprise a quarter of all health club members (see figure 22).

Figure 21.
Health Club Membership Rate of Growth By Age (2001-04)

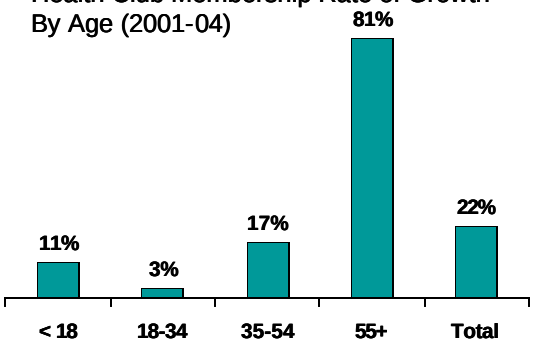
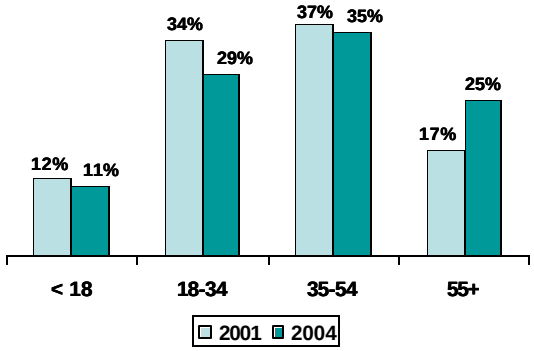


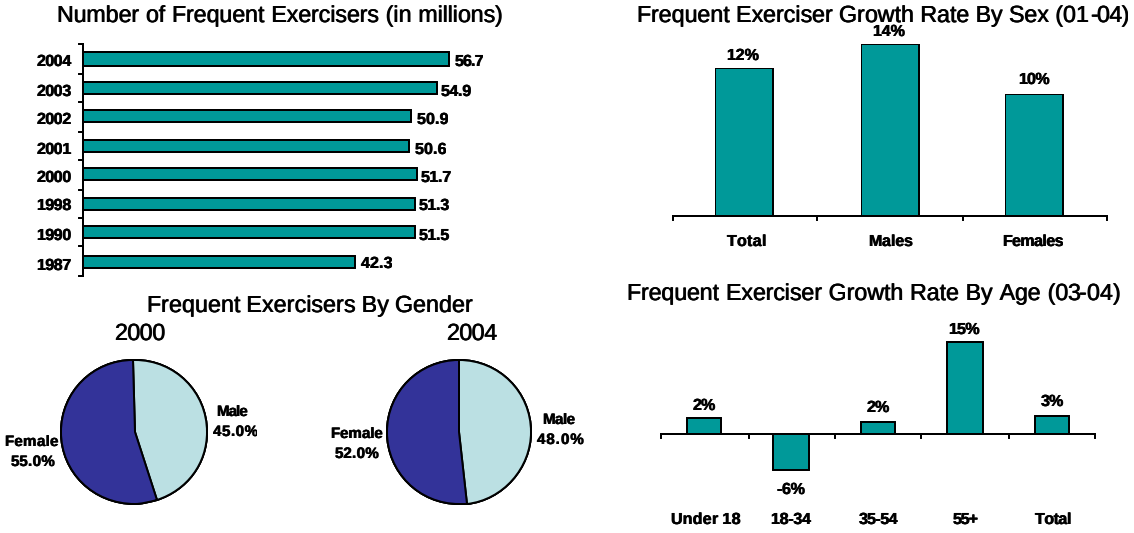
Figure 22.
Health Club Membership By Age (2001-04)



- The overall number of core fitness enthusiasts, those who participate in fitness activities at least 100 days or more per year, grew appreciably for the second consecutive year in 2004. There are now 12% more frequent exercisers in America than there were in 2001. Virtually all of that growth has occurred within the last two years (see figure 23). Two demographic groups appear largely responsible for this expansion – males and seniors. Traditionally,

females have outnumbered males in the ranks of frequent exercisers (55% vs. 45% as recently as 2000). However, the frequent exciser growth rate has been higher for males than for females in the past few years. As a result, the proportions of male and female frequent exercisers are edging closer together. Due to recent growth, males now account for 48% of this group.

Figure 23. Frequent Exercisers (participated 100+ days/year)



2001 data was not available to assess the '01-'04 growth in frequent exercisers by age. However, 2003 and 2004 data were available (see figure 23) and indicate that, by age, seniors were largely responsible for the growth in frequent exercisers.

- Aggregate participation in strength training and use of cardiovascular exercise equipment each grew an additional 15% over the course of the strategic planning period. 72.9 million Americans used all types of cardio machines to exercise in 2004 and 70.7 million engaged in some form of strength training (see table 10). Demographic profiles for these two aggregate activities and the drivers of recent growth are shown in figure 24.

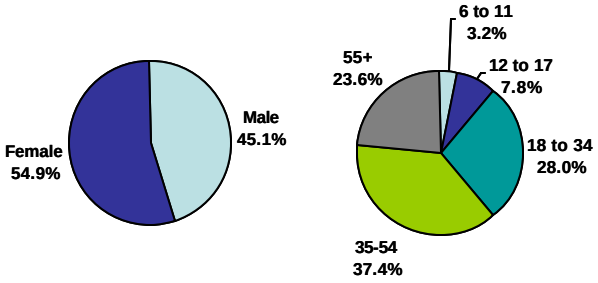
  Both activities enjoy broad appeal, although cardio equipment exercise attracts a slightly greater proportion of females and strength training attracts a slightly higher proportion of males. Exercising with cardio equipment is becoming more universal. The proportion of cardio equipment exercisers that are male increased from 41% to 45% between 2001 and 2004. The percentage of strength training participants that are female actually dropped from 48% to 46% due to a higher rate of growth among males.

- Key sources of growth were similar for both cardio equipment exercise and strength training – males, middle-aged adults and seniors had the highest growth rates in both activities.

- Both activities also experienced a hefty increase in frequent participants (11% respectively). Seniors were the key driver of growth among frequent participants in both activities.

Figure 24

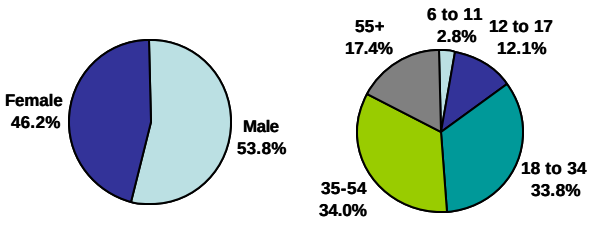
Exercise With Cardio Equipment (Net), 2004



% Gain/Loss in Participants, 2001-2004

Male	26%
Female	7%
6-11	-11%
12-17	4%
18-34	9%
35-54	18%
55+	28%
Frequent	11%
Infrequent	16%

Strength Training (Net), 2004

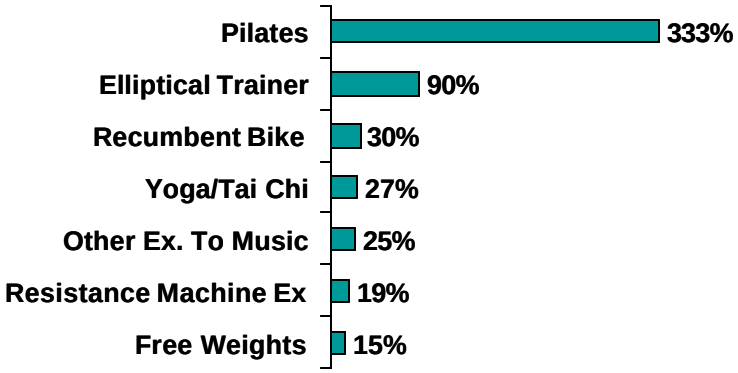


% Gain/Loss in Participants, 2001-2004

Male	20%
Female	10%
6-11	4%
12-17	-1%
18-34	10%
35-54	14%
55+	52%
Frequent	11%
Infrequent	18%

- Low impact forms of exercise dominated the list of the fastest growing fitness activities from 2001 – 2004 (see figure 25). The ascendance of the so-called 'softer' forms of exercise is now well established as an important fitness trend, due largely to the aging of the Baby Boom generation of fitness enthusiasts. These activities are generally low impact and tend to integrate mind and body aspects into exercise routines. Pilates and Yoga/Tai Chi typify the mind/body exercise trend. The top four activities on the list also include two low impact versions of cardio equipment exercise – the elliptical trainer and recumbent bike exercise. The next activity on the list, other exercise to music, typifies the trend toward fusion classes that combine several workout styles with one of any number of rhythms, including African, Caribbean, Latin, hip-hop, funk and others. Rounding out the list are two strength training alternatives – resistance machines and free weights.

Figure 25.
Fastest Growing Fitness Activities
(% growth in total participants, 2001-04)



- Demographic profiles for the fastest growing fitness activities are shown in table 11. Note that the programmatic activities are female-dominant, the strength training activities are more male-dominant, and the cardio equipment exercise alternatives have a more even male/female distribution. Other exercise to music sports a younger age profile than all of the other activities. It is the only activity in the group to attract a significant youth participant base. On the other side of the age spectrum, Yoga/Tai Chi and recumbent bike exercise attract the largest proportion of senior participants. The strength training activities have the highest incidence of frequent participants, followed by the cardio equipment activities and other exercise to music.

Table 11. Fastest Growing Fitness Activities - Demographic/Use Profile

	Male	Female	Under 18	18 to 34	35 to 54	55+	Frequent Participants
Pilates	11%	89%	12%	47%	30%	11%	13%
Yoga/Tai Chi	21%	79%	12%	35%	33%	20%	16%
Elliptical Trainer	45%	55%	6%	38%	43%	13%	25%
Recumbent Bike	47%	53%	8%	29%	38%	25%	23%
Other Exercise to Music	15%	85%	26%	29%	28%	17%	24%
Resistance Machine Exercise	56%	44%	13%	32%	37%	18%	31%
Free Weights	57%	43%	17%	35%	32%	16%	33%

Summary – Were Americans More Active in 2004 than in 2001?

This report summarized national participation trends in more than 60 sports, recreation and fitness activities in six categories with an emphasis on describing participation patterns in the four-year period roughly corresponding with the Park Authority's strategic planning cycle that is just ending. In presenting this kind of information it is easy to get mired in the details and lose site of bigger picture trends. The approach here has been to identify broad themes under the assumption that they are more useful at a policy level than wave after wave of details at the individual activity level. Perhaps the broadest question of all remains unanswered, that is, for this particular set of recreation activities, were Americans more or less active in 2004 than they were in 2001?

Given the limitations of the available data, this question was answered by calculating the rate of growth or decline in number of participants for each activity, followed by a count of the number of activities in which the number of participants grew or declined. Calculations were done for total participation as well as by gender and age group. The results are summarized in table 12 on the following page.

- As the table shows, Americans generally seemed to be participating less in sports, recreation and fitness activity in 2004 than they had a few years earlier in 2001. 55% of the activities studied had a smaller number of total participants in 2004 than they had in 2001, while the remaining 45% had growing participant bases. Further analysis showed differences by gender and age.

    - Female participation declined in a larger number of activities than male participation. In 48% of the activities, male participation increased compared to only 38% of activities for females.

- Finally, youth participation declined in a larger number of activities than was the case for older Americans. The number of 6 to 11 year olds declined in 71% of the activities included in the report and the number of teens declined in 81% of the activities. The picture then improved gradually through successively older age groups. The number of young adult participants dropped from 2001-2004 in 57% of the activities, middle-aged participants declined in number in only 40%, and the number of seniors declined in only 14% of the activities studied.

Table 12
2001-2004: % of Activities In Which The Number of Participants...

	Grew	Declined
Total Participants	45%	55%
Male	48%	52%
Female	38%	62%
6 to 11	29%	71%
12 to 17	19%	81%
18 to 34	43%	57%
35-54	60%	40%
55 and older	86%	14%

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ACTION - 1

Scope Approval – Patriot Park Phase I Development (Springfield District)

ISSUE:
Approval of the project scope for phase I development of Patriot Park to include a lighted artificial turf field with amenities and all related support facilities.

RECOMMENDATION:
The Park Authority Director recommends approval of the project scope for phase I development of Patriot Park to include a lighted artificial turf field with amenities, and all related support facilities.

TIMING:
Board action is requested on February 8, 2006, in order to maintain the project schedule.

BACKGROUND:
Patriot Park is an undeveloped 97-acre park located in the Springfield Magisterial District. The 2004 Park Bond Program approved by the Park Authority Board included funding in the amount of $3.5 million for phase I development of athletic fields at Patriot Park. Additionally, there is approximately $1.3 million in proffer and other funding available for a total of $4.8 million.

A project team was assembled with representatives from the Department of Community and Recreation Services, and Park Operations, Resource Management, and Planning and Development Divisions to determine the project scope. To maintain the project schedule, staff hired Patton, Harris, Rust & Associates (PHR&A) through an open-end professional services contract to assist with scope development.

The project team conducted a series of meetings and site visits to acquaint themselves with the site and its construction constraints. A schematic design for the park was prepared that included all of the master planned amenities. The schematic design included the following elements:

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Area of Patriot Park accessed from First Road

1) Improvements to Braddock Road
2) Improvements to First Road
3) Park Entrance Road
4) Restroom Facilities
5) 3 – 90' Lighted and Irrigated Baseball Diamonds
6) 3 – Lighted and Irrigated, Full-Size Rectangular Fields
7) Stormwater Management Facilities and Related Structures
8) Parking Facilities (350 spaces) and Associated Roadways
9) Associated Roadways
10) Sidewalks and Trails
11) Outdoor Classroom
12) Patriot Memorials
13) Family Activity Areas
14) Site Lighting
15) Site Landscaping
16) Pedestrian Bridge over Piney Branch

Area of Patriot Park accessed from the Mott Community Center

17) Access Road through the Mott Community Center
18) Parking Facilities (100 spaces) and Associated Roadways
19) 1 - Over-Sized Lighted and Irrigated Artificial Turf Field
20) Stormwater Management Facilities and Related Structures
21) Skate Park
22) Sidewalks and Trails
23) Site Lighting
24) Site Landscaping

The preliminary cost estimate for developing all of the facilities shown on the master plan is $22 million.

Based on the amount of funding currently available for design and construction, the project team recommends focusing the first phase of development on the facilities accessed from the Mott Community Center property at the Northwest corner of the site. This would include items 18 – 24 as listed above except for the skate park.

The scope cost estimate (Attachment 2) for this recommended first phase of park development is $3,837,000.

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FISCAL IMPACT:
Based on the scope cost estimate, funding in the amount of $3,837,000 is necessary to fund this project. Funding is currently available in the amount of $3,485,978 in Project 474104, Athletic Fields and $228,035 in Project 474198, Athletic Fields, Fund 370, Park Authority Bond Construction, $5,055 in Project 004791, Popes Head Estates, Fund 371, Park Capital Improvement Fund, and $117,932 in Project 004750, Park Proffers, Fund 371, Park Capital Improvement Fund for a total of $3,837,000.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:
Attachment 1: Patriot Park - Schematic Plan
Attachment 2: Scope Cost Estimate
Attachment 3: Development Project Fact Sheet

STAFF:
Michael A. Kane, Director
Timothy K. White, Chief Operating Officer
Lynn S. Tadlock, Director, Planning and Development Division
Charles Bittenbring, Director, Park Services Division
Cindy Messinger, Director, Resource Management Division
Dan Sutherland, Park Operations Division
John Lehman, Manager, Project Management Branch
Chris Hoppe, Supervisor, Project Management Branch
Eric Brunner, Project Manager, Project Management Branch

PATRIOT PARK

SCHEMATIC PLAN

Attachment 1

Attachment 2

SCOPE COST ESTIMATE

PATRIOT PARK PHASE I DEVELOPMENT

Clearing, E&S Controls, Earthwork	$ 766,000
LID / SWM	$ 217,000
Parking Lot	$ 112,000
Oversize Artificial Turf Rectangular Field	$1,440,000
Lighting	$ 207,000
Sidewalks / Trails	$ 41,000
Mott Center Improvements	$ 97,000
Landscaping	$ 117,000
Design (10%)	$ 300,000
Utilities and Permit Fees (2%)	$ 60,000
Administration Cost (6%)	$ 180,000
Construction Contract Contingency (10%)	$ 300,000
Total Project Estimate	**$3,837,000**

Attachment 3

DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FACT SHEET

PATRIOT PARK PHASE I DEVEOPMENT

DISTRICT:	Springfield
PARK:	Patriot Park
PARK CLASSIFICATION:	District
PROJECT NAME:	Phase I Development

Project Scope:
Area of Patriot Park accessed from the Mott Community Center

- Access Road through the Mott Community Center
- Parking Facilities (100 Spaces) and Associated Roadways
- 1 - Over-Sized Lighted and Irrigated Artificial Turf Field
- Stormwater Management Facilities and Related Structures
- Sidewalks and Trails
- Site Lighting
- Site Landscaping

Project Funding:

- Project Scope Cost Estimate: $3,837,000
- Funding Source: $3,485,978 in Project 474104, Athletic Fields and $228,035 in Project 474198, Athletic Fields, Fund 370, Park Authority Bond Construction, and $5,055 in Project 004791, Popes Head Estates, Fund 371, Park Capital Improvement Fund, and $117,932 in Project 004750, Park Proffers, Fund 371, Park Capital Improvement Fund.

Project Timeline:

Phase	Planned Completion
Scope	1st Qtr 2006
Design	4th Qtr 2006
Construction	2nd Qtr 2008

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ACTION – 2

Approval of Policy 407 Construction of Donated Facilities/Structures on Park Land

ISSUE:
Approval of a Park Authority policy to guide the consideration of facilities/structures proposed for construction on Park Authority property.

RECOMMENDATION:
The Park Authority Director recommends approval of the proposed policy addition to the Fairfax County Park Authority Policy Manual regarding donated facilities/structures proposed for construction on Park Authority property.

TIMING:
Action is requested at the February 8, 2006, meeting of the Fairfax County Park Authority, in order to respond to current, outstanding requests.

BACKGROUND:
At the October 5, 2005, meeting of the Planning and Development Committee, staff was directed to provide suggested criteria for the development of a policy which would address the construction of donated structures/facilities on park land. The suggested criteria were presented to the Park Authority Board on November 2, 2005, at which time staff was directed to develop a draft policy.

A draft policy was provided to the Planning and Development Committee on December 7, 2005. Comments were received by the Board for inclusion in the policy and staff was directed to have the final draft reviewed by the County Attorney's Office.

The attached draft policy has been reviewed by the County Attorney's Office and is being presented to the Park Authority Board for approval.

FISCAL IMPACT:
None

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ENCLOSED DOCUMENT:
Attachment 1: Policy 407 Construction of Donated Facilities/Structures on Park Land
STAFF:
Michael A. Kane, Director
Timothy K. White, Chief Operating Officer

Attachment 1

Policy 407 Construction of Donated Facilities/Structures on Park Land

The Park Authority shall consider the acceptance of donated facilities/structures proposed for construction on park land, when such facilities/structures are in the interest of the community and consistent with the mission of the Authority. All facilities/structures constructed on parkland become the property of the Park Authority, except as specifically provided through written, mutual agreement.

Requests for the construction of donated facilities/structures on parklands shall be evaluated with regard to the following criteria:

Acceptance Criteria:

- The donated facilities/structures proposed for construction on park land shall comply with the existing park master plan.
- For facilities/structures not requiring master plan approval, the proposed facilities/structures shall be similar to existing facilities typically provided by the Park Authority.
- All proposed donated facilities/structures shall be required to meet existing Park Authority.
- The purpose of the facilities/structures shall not be for the recognition of affiliations, whether cultural, religious, fraternal, individual or organizational, except as permitted by other Park Authority Policy.
- The proposed facilities/structures shall not be of a religious, political, cultural or theological nature.
- The proposed facilities/structures shall be useable and available to all segments of the population in a manner that is consistent with similar existing facilities.
- The proposed facilities/structures shall be deemed to have no negative environmental or aesthetic impacts.
- Consideration shall be given to the continued maintenance and eventual replacement of the facility/structure.
- The structure/facility shall present an overall benefit, compared to alternative uses of the land, including green space.

The Park Authority may decline to accept such proposed facilities/structures, if it is in the best interest of the Park Authority to do so.

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INFORMATION - 1

Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis as of June 30, 2005

The Park Authority is required, on an annual basis, to have an external audit and review of the basic financial statements produced by the Authority. This audit has been conducted by KPMG, the County's external auditors, and an opinion and any recommendations are obtained from the audit review. This document was presented to and reviewed by the Budget Committee on January 25, 2006.